

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 488

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack Rutherford,
longtime Washington County Commissioner.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jack Rutherford, longtime Washington County Commissioner and a highly respected community leader; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rutherford was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Washington County, he learned the core values of hard work, dependability, and honesty from his parents, the late Thomas C. and Texie Rowland Rutherford; and

WHEREAS, always keenly interested in service to his community and his nation, Jack Rutherford served in the United States Army during the Korean War and thus occupied a respected position among those estimable men and women who, throughout our nation's history, have made immeasurable sacrifices to ensure and protect the freedoms and privileges available to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, as an elected official, Mr. Rutherford earned the respect of his fellow government officials and the citizens of Washington County for the exemplary quality of his public service, for his unsurpassed work ethic, and for his unquestionable integrity; and

WHEREAS, Jack Rutherford served continuously as a County Commissioner from 1978 until his death, and was a prominent member of numerous commission committees, earning distinction for his work with the Budget Committee and the Public Works Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rutherford was a leader among leaders, and memories and recollections of him are invariably full of praise; Commissioner Bob Good remembered him as “the most clever politician who ever served on the Commission,” and Washington County Executive George Jaynes has stated that Mr. Rutherford was always one of the most informed Commissioners and “could fight the hardest fight...He really helped his district and had it in his heart at all times”; and

WHEREAS, this laudable Tennessean was a founding member of the Washington County Regional Planning Commission and served commendably in that capacity for twenty-two years; many of the county’s great planning successes of the late twentieth century can be attributed to Mr. Rutherford's dedicated work; and

WHEREAS, well-known as a leader of the highest measure, he served at various times as a member of the Tennessee Contractors Licensing Board, Johnson City Power Board of Directors, and the Economic Development Board; he was also actively involved in the Washington County Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rutherford was the Founder and President of Rutherford Electric; the same leadership skills that served Washington County so well also enabled him to experience tremendous success as a professional; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, Jack Rutherford was a member of Lone Oak Christian Church, where he was an inspiration to many; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rutherford was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he cherished the love and companionship of his dear wife, Betty G. Rutherford; and

WHEREAS, Jack Rutherford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Jack Rutherford, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and his estimable service to his Washington County as a civic leader of the utmost ability and dedication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Rutherford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.